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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Die-Hard Nazi Defense Pockets Shape As Allies Split Reich; U. S. Plans Huge Postwar Fleet

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(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysis and not necessarily of this newspaper.)



Deep in a salt mine near Merkers, Germany, G.I.s came upon this hidden cache of 100 million dollars of gold bullion packed in bags. Also discovered was German and foreign currency, and crates of art treasures.

EUROPE:

Defense Pockets

Their front shattered by Allied break-throughs, Nazi militarists envisioned the formation of numerous strong pockets of resistance for a last-ditch stand against the massed weight of U. S., British and Russian forces.

Discussed even as U. S. and British armies drove toward a link-up in the Berlin region, the object of the pockets would be to make the war so costly to the Allies as to induce a willingness to talk terms. Recognizing the possibilities of such warfare, Supreme Allied headquarters indicated that V-E Day might not be proclaimed until major nests of resistance were cleaned up to prevent a lowering of civilian and military morale because of losses sustained in continuing operations.

With U. S. and British forces spearheading across the Reich, and the Russians moving in from the east, most prominent German pockets shaped up along the North sea coasts and mountainous Bavaria. Nazi plans for a die-hard stand shaped up as the great Russian drive surged on battered Berlin and U. S. forces moved toward a junction with the Reds in Saxony.

With the Russians throwing over 2,000,000 men into the battle, and the Germans concentrating the bulk of their forces against the onslaught, the fight for Berlin became one of the bloodiest encounters of the whole war. As Red forces edged through a network of strong fortifications under rolling fire, the enemy threw in masses of tanks in an effort



Lieutenant General Simpson of 8th army (left) chats with British Field Marshal Montgomery on German front.

to break up the advancing formations, and swarms of planes clashed in the leaden skies above.

Further to the south, other Russian forces breached the Nazis' Neisse and Spree river lines to smash westward in Saxony for a junction with the U. S. 1st and 3rd armies.

While the 1st and 3rd fought toward a junction with the Russians, and the U. S. 9th built up strength along the Elbe for an eastward thrust to Berlin, the British and Canadian forces and the U. S. 7th army bore down on the potential German defensive pockets along the North sea and in Bavaria.

The British and Canadian task was no snap, what with the enemy concentrating large bodies of troops in small areas behind stout defenses. Included in the German holdout regions was the western portion of Holland below the Zuider Zee, and the great port areas of Emden, Wilhelmshaven, and Hamburg.

Having cleared the Nazi shrine city of Nuernberg, 7th army spearheads pointed toward Munich and the Bavarian mountain reaches, where enemy die-hards are expected to put up their stiffest last stand.

With Allied armies on the move in Germany itself, U. S. and British forces pushed forward in Italy also, threatening to spill into the Po valley.

PAFICIC:

U. S. Losses

For the first time in the Pacific war, navy casualties in the Okinawa campaign ran ahead of the army's and marines', with bitter fighting threatening to make the operation as costly as at Iwo Jima. Numbered among the victims was famed War Correspondent Ernie Pyle, whose simplicity of reporting the war from Europe to Asia brought the realism of the conflict so much closer to the nation's folk.

With the Ryukyu island chain, containing Okinawa, lying but 325 miles from Tokyo, the Japs put up a stiff fight, throwing in waves of airplanes in an attempt to impede supporting U. S. naval operations. Led by the silken-shrouded Kamikaze (suicide) fliers, enemy airmen inflicted the greatest percentage of naval casualties.

In ground fighting on Okinawa itself, chief opposition centered in the southern part of the island above the capital city of Naha, where 24th corps army troops bucked against the four-mile deep "Little Siegfried" line.

While fighting raged about Okinawa, General MacArthur's forces tightened their hold on the Philippines by edging into the enemy's mountain strongholds on northern Luzon, and establishing further footholds on Mindanao, second biggest island in the archipelago.

NAVY:

Postwar Fleet

Although final action depends upon the nation's future policy, tentative navy plans call for a huge postwar fleet of 5,830 vessels and the scrapping of another 6,094, according to testimony released by the house appropriations committee.

Of the 5,830 vessels, 1,191 would be combat ships, with the remaining 4,639 auxiliary craft. Plans call for use of 482 of the combat vessels, ranging from submarines to battleships, with the rest laid up for recall on short notice. Of the auxiliaries, 1,794 would be kept active and the remainder anchored for future demands.

Among the 6,094 vessels to be scrapped or used as targets are 337 obsolescent combat ships. The remainder are auxiliaries, including landing craft. In addition, it was disclosed, the navy will have some 66,000 other craft on its hands as demobilization proceeds, with some retained and others disposed of by the maritime commission.

FARM LABOR:

Draft Provisions

Seeking to assure essential farm labor, congress moved to forbid local draft boards from comparing the value of agriculture with that of any other occupation when considering deferments of farm workers.

Final passage of the bill depended upon house approval of senate amendments, providing that appeals boards could not make such comparisons, and deferment of farm workers shall not prevent voluntary enlistments for the services.

The congressional measure was framed to forestall a directive of selective service ordering local boards to give first consideration to the manpower needs of the army and navy when considering deferments for farm workers.

CONGRESS:

Tariff Battle

Even as the Republican's senate steering committee called upon Pres. Harry S. Truman to wish his administration well, a red hot legislative battle loomed in congress over the new chief's reciprocal trade treaty program, with GOP leaders heading the fight to defeat the measure.

First sponsored by Mr. Roosevelt, then adopted as his own by President Truman, the program calls for a three-year extension of the reciprocal trade treaties, with permission to cut tariff rates 50 per cent under January, 1945, levels. Since the original trade treaties allowed a 50 per cent reduction on duties imposed in the Smoot-Hawley bill of 1930, and such cuts were made on some goods, another 50 per cent slash would amount to 75 per cent, in all.

As former secretary of state and so-called "father" of the reciprocal trade program, Cordell Hull, called for passage of the act from the Bethesda, Md., naval hospital, Assistant Secretary of State William Clayton led the administration fight for adoption of the bill. With the U. S. possibly exporting as much as 10 billion dollars worth of goods a year after the war, he said, it will be necessary to cut our own tariff barriers so that our foreign purchasers will be able to repay us in kind. Otherwise, he said, we will lose this trade or billions of dollars extended in credits.

Disputing the administration's contention that passage of the measure was necessary to assist in the restoration of world prosperity and prevention of unsettled economic conditions leading to war, GOP congressmen, led by Rep. Harold Knutson (Minn.), declared that the program accomplished neither objective prior to the present conflict.

Army Strength at Peak

With a population of 13,479,142, New York led all other states in the number of men and women in the army with 900,563 as U. S. military strength totalled 8,050,011 as of December 31, the war department revealed.

To the original army strength of 513,410 in 1940, 9,444,283 have been added by induction, enlistment or appointment since then, with the normal release of 1,907,682 giving the net figure of 8,050,011, it was pointed out.

With the draft equalizing state inductions on the basis of population, Pennsylvania with 9,900,189 persons and Illinois with 7,897,541 ranked second and third in the number of men and women in the army, with 663,666 and 507,233 respectively.

PLANE OUTPUT:

Big Cut

In line with the army air force's cut in aircraft production for the rest of 1945, the huge \$100,000,000 Ford-operated factory at Willow Run outside Detroit, Mich., will wind up manufacture of B-24 bombers by next August.

Decision to terminate production of the B-24s was predicated upon the collapse of the German Luftwaffe and the need for heavier, faster bombers like the B-29s for the Pacific war, it was said. The overall cut in output of other planes also will permit concentration on manufacture of aircraft more vitally needed against the Japs, including the new jet-propelled ships.

Capable of turning out 462 planes a month at the peak of its operations, the Willow Run factory is owned by the government's Defense Plant corporation. Henry Ford has eyed purchase of the property for production of tractors and other kinds of farm tools after the war.

WATER TREATY:

Neighborly Act

In what President Truman hailed as a constructive, business-like proposal undertaken in a neighborly spirit, the U. S. senate ratified the controversial treaty dividing waters of the Colorado and Rio Grande rivers between this country and Mexico.

Under provisions of the treaty, the U. S. guarantees Mexico 1,500,000 acre feet of water annually from the Colorado river, except in times of extraordinary drought when the supply may be cut, and also agrees to divide waters in the Rio Grande below Fort Quitman, Texas, about equally. In addition, the two nations will make a study of problems arising from the flow of the Tijuana river from Mexico into southern California, including flood control and conservation.

Though California and Nevada congressmen attacked the treaty as harmful to domestic users of the Colorado river waters, other western senators acclaimed it as necessary for orderly development of both the Colorado and Rio Grande basins.



Notes of a Newspaperman:

Letter to Woodrow Wilson from Franklin D. Roosevelt: "My dear Mr. President: I entirely forgot on Sunday evening to speak to you of a personal matter which might come up during my absence—the question of my nomination for the Governorship of New York. I have tried in every way to stop it, but some of your friends and mine have talked of the possibility of forcing this while I am away, and of asking you to encourage me to accept it.

"I sincerely hope the matter will not come up. I have made my position entirely clear that my duty lies in my present work—not only my duty to you and the country, but to myself. If I were at any time to leave the Assistant Secretaryship it could only be for active service.

"Furthermore, may I say that I am very certain that it would be a grave mistake for either you or any member of the Administration to ask that I give up war work for what is frankly very much of a political job in these times. I cannot accept such a nomination at this time with honesty or honor to myself. I think I have put off all danger of it, but in case you are appealed to, I want you to know what I feel—and I know too that you will understand and that you will not listen to the appeal."

Regardless of what you have heard and read, FDR never wanted 3rd Term. . . . A few months before his 2nd Term was about to end, Mrs. Roosevelt invited kin of Ed Flynn to spend a night in the White House. She especially wanted their two tots to sleep there "so that they never will forget the thrill of it." . . . "Considering the people (we do not really know) who have been here," she said in effect, "I want the children to be with us for a night—and this positively is their very, very last chance!"

After a press conference in his White House office a reporter told the President of a story that had come in the mail. Did he mind its publication? . . . "It was at the Gridiron Dinner," said FDR. "You'd better clear it with some of the boys who were there." . . . A famed Republican Senator, it appears, was teasing FDR about his "lucky Inaugural suit." . . . "If you run for a third term," heckled the Senator, "let me borrow that suit, and I'll run against you and win!" . . . FDR told him he couldn't let him borrow his "lucky" suit. . . . "Because I may need it myself!" . . . "You mean," was the retort, "that you ARE going to run again?" . . . "I mean," said Mr. Roosevelt wearily, "that I may need it myself. I do not consider it my Inaugural suit. It is my—funeral suit."

Another of the favorite FDE stories deals with the White House visitor who remarked: "Mr. President, how in the world did you acquire such patience—with all the bores you meet in a day?" . . . FDR grimly replied: "You acquire patience after you've spent two years learning how to wiggle your big toe again."

Men who were trusted by President Roosevelt were never frisked when they were admitted to FDR's office. The Secret Servicemen knew his friends, of course. . . . One newly appointed agent, however, took no chances. . . . A newspaper man he had never seen before (and who hadn't held his White House pass high enough for the agent to see) was suddenly jerked out of the crowd swiftly marching in for the press confab. The newspaper man (when he got his bearings again) was irked no end. . . . Later, alone with the President, he kidded about it. "I thought everybody down here," he said, "knew who was on your team!" . . . "Well," replied the President, "it is comforting to know that the boys are careful."

"Not so careful," said the visitor, displaying a loaded pistol. . . . Among one reporter's thrills was hearing him guffaw. When the gag was funny he would howl. The vaudeville comics would call it "a belly laugh." . . . The reporter thinks, too, he is one of the few who ever saw him weep. . . . It happened when ex-Cong. Lambertson and others were criticizing the war records of his sons. . . . Mr. Roosevelt was miserable about a letter that came (that morning) from one of them. It concluded: "Pop, sometimes I really hope one of us gets killed so that maybe they'll stop picking on the rest of the family!" . . . When he read it, FDR's lower lip started to quiver, and the tears came.

Harry Truman's Life Story Proves Again 'Cabin-to-White House' Road Is Still Open

President Advanced From County Offices To Head of Nation

By Elliott Pinc

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

Forty years ago Harry Truman was plowing behind a mule on a Missouri farm. Today he is in the White House, in many ways the most powerful man in the world.

The new president was born in Lamar, Mo., May 8, 1884. Four years later his parents, John Anderson and Martha Young Truman, returned to Jackson county, 125 miles north, which was the ancestral home of both. Harry grew up on the 600-acre family farm in Jackson county near Grandview. His mother, still alive at 92, remarked reminiscently last fall when he was elected to the vice presidency:

"That boy could plow the straightest row of corn in the county. He could sow wheat so there wouldn't be a bare spot in the whole field. He was a farmer who could do anything there was to do—just a little bit better than anyone else."

During his grade and high school days Harry distinguished himself by his scholarship. He was an omnivorous reader, an earnest student of everything. When he graduated in 1901, he hoped to go to college, but, although his father was known as the "best horse and mule trader in the county," family finances would not permit any more education for the eager youth. He won an appointment to West Point, but was rejected for weak eyesight.

Harry decided to make his fortune in nearby Kansas City. After a few years at small jobs—drug clerk, bundle wrapper on the Kansas City Star, bank clerk, timekeeper on a railroad gang—he went back to the family farm at his grandmother's invitation.

Went to War

For the next few years working the big farm took all Harry's time. Then in 1917, he volunteered for the army, and soon became a lieutenant of field artillery. While in training camp he organized a canteen for the men, and took care of them in many other ways. Later he rose to a captaincy, and led his company in hard fighting in Saint Mihiel and the Argonne campaigns. On the boat home Harry was commissioned a major.

Soon after returning to Missouri, he married his childhood sweetheart, Elizabeth (Bess) Wallace, granddaughter of the first mayor of Independence, Mo. The ceremony took place in the Episcopal church, Mrs. Truman's sect.

In 1919 Truman decided to go into business, so he entered partnership with a man whom he met in army life, and established a haberdashery store in Kansas City. Harry invested his entire fortune, amounting to about \$15,000. At first the business prospered but the sharp recession of 1921 brought disaster. Truman did not go into bankruptcy, but chose to pay off his debts as well as he could. In 1934, when elected to the U. S. senate, he was still meeting old bills.

Somewhat accidentally, he got into politics. An army acquaintance who was a nephew of Thomas Pendergast, then Democratic leader in Kansas City, suggested Harry Truman for some small position. The astute Pendergast, discovering that Truman was well known and liked, had the backing of the American Legion, and was anxious for a new career, appointed him a road supervisor. In return Harry made occa-



PRES. HARRY S. TRUMAN

sional speeches and assisted in party organization work.

The young man's integrity and energy were effective and he was placed on the ticket for county judge in Jackson county. Truman won, and discharged his duties well during his two-year term, 1922-24. He was defeated in his try for reelection, however, the only political setback in his career. (The office of county judge in Missouri corresponds to county superintendent in other states.)

Truman studied law at night during his term of office, and gained admittance to the bar. Then in 1926 he was elected presiding judge of Jackson county which includes Kansas City, and environs.

Handled \$6 Million Dollars. "I had charge of the spending of \$60,000,000 for highways and public buildings," Truman said later. "Nobody ever found anything wrong with that, and it wasn't because they didn't look, either. We built more miles of paved roads in Jackson county than in any other county in the country, with only two exceptions."

Truman was repeatedly reelected to this office until 1934. He had sought the nomination for governor in 1930, and for county collector in 1932, but party heads advised him to wait a little longer. Then in 1934 came the big chance. Pendergast put Truman on the ticket for the U. S. senate. This was not such a favor as it might seem, for Pendergast did not expect victory in that year. By a peculiar stroke of luck, however, the opposition was divided between two strong candidates, and Truman's own popularity sufficed to win him a seat in the august upper house. During his first term Truman remained somewhat obscure, making few speeches, and in general following the lead of Missouri's senior senator, Bennett Clark.

With few exceptions, Senator Truman supported the party program. He voted for the original agricultural adjustment act, the Wagner labor act, social security, the Tennessee valley authority, and the joining of the World court. In his second year he voted for the Florida Ship canal and Passamaquoddy dam project. The only measure he opposed was the President's veto of the bonus payments.

In 1938 and '39 he supported preparedness appropriations and lend-lease. He was chairman of a subcommittee that investigated railroad finance, leading to the Transportation Act of 1940. His work in drafting the Civil Aeronautics authority was outstanding for thoroughness and practicality.

In 1940, after squeaking through the Democratic nomination battle with only 7,000 votes to spare, he

won the election by a wide margin. Soon after resuming his seat he became interested in reports of extravagance in construction of army camps. Truman requested funds to set up an investigating committee, with himself as chairman. Within a few months the committee uncovered widespread waste, excessive purchasing, profiteering and inefficiency in military contracts. In the first report the committee attacked "needless waste" amounting to \$100,000,000 in the army's casement construction program.

Plenty to Investigate

Complaints poured into the committee's headquarters. One concerned inferior steel plate in naval construction—an investigation disclosed a serious situation, which was corrected. The committee brought about a reversal of policy when housewives complained about a shortage of sugar for canning. Thirty-one reports were issued—all unanimous on the part of the six Democratic and four Republican members. The committee was instrumental in consolidating the various and conflicting war agencies into the War Production board. It helped to end bottlenecks in synthetic rubber and aluminum production. It advocated subcontracting to small war plants.

"The thing to do in this stuff up now and correct it," Truman declared. "If we run this war program efficiently there won't be any opportunity for some one to undertake a lot of investigations after the war and cause a wave of revision that will start this country on the downhill road to unpreparedness, and put us in another war in 20 years."

These famous investigations put the "Truman committee" in the headlines time and again. Senator Truman grew into a national figure. President Roosevelt took increas-



The President's mother, Mrs. Martha E. Truman, now 92, still lives in Independence, Mo.

ing interest in him. So did Robert Haneagan, national Democratic chairman, who knew Truman in Kansas City. When the dust settled at the convention in Chicago last summer, Harry S. Truman found himself nominated as vice president. Victory at the polls in November thrust him into the second highest office in the land.

As vice president Truman had less opportunity to act independently than while in the senate, since as presiding officer of the upper house he could not take sides, as often he wished to do. Unlike his predecessor, Wallace, he did not travel abroad on any special missions for the President, but remained in Washington close to affairs of state.

Shrewd, Practical Man

The new President is considered a shrewd and practical man, a middle-of-the-road liberal, with an ability to get along with conflicting factions and to compromise when necessary. Capital observers think he will rise to the demands of the enormous task ahead as have other vice presidents suddenly called to vast responsibilities.

Personally, the new President is a modest-appearing man of almost 61. He stands 5 feet, 10 inches tall, weighs about 170 pounds, and is trim and well proportioned. Until they entered the White House, he and Mrs. Truman lived in a five-room apartment. They had no house-servants, as Mrs. Truman, who has been her husband's secretary for years, also preferred to take care of the apartment herself. The Truman's only child, Mary Margaret, is studying at George Washington university. She is 21, and a junior. Her hopes are for a career in music.

All his life President Truman has been a "joiner." Even as a child he often attended the Presbyterian Sunday school, although he is a Baptist. In youth he enlisted in the National Guard, and stayed in service for a dozen years until 1917. His fraternal connections include the Elks, the Masons (he was state Grand Master for Missouri in 1920,



Mrs. Bess Truman and her daughter, Mary Margaret, relax in their Washington apartment.